

# DUNWOODY POLICE

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## ON THE BEAT

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## Chief's Office

*Chief Billy Grogan*

The Dunwoody Police Department is proud to introduce the first edition of our new crime prevention newsletter, *On The Beat*, which will be a great source of information and crime prevention tips for the citizens of Dunwoody. Officer Rusty Furman has worked very hard to put this issue together. Our goal is to provide information to you which will help make you and your family safer.

If you have an idea or a topic you would like to see discussed in a future issue of the newsletter, please let Officer Furman know. The Dunwoody Police Department recognizes that our citizens are our greatest partner in fighting crime in our community. We are working hard to serve with distinction. I hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please pass it on to others. ☺

## Thank you

*Officer W. Furman*

Myself and Sgt. Carlson would like to take the time to thank everyone that has assisted in the roll out of the Dunwoody Neighborhood Watch program. We have spent many hours compiling new email lists, mapping neighborhoods and trying to create a smooth flow of information. Our goal is to create a very streamlined and efficient program that is controlled by you, the citizens.

By partnering with [USAonwatch.org](http://USAonwatch.org) and creating this newsletter, we hope to provide Neighborhood Watch coordinators with the resources to run their programs as they see fit. As always, we will be here to distribute information and help train coordinators and citizens.

As this program grows, we plan on adding additional modules such as the Citizens Police Academy and an enhanced volunteer program.



## Jogger Safety Tips

*Officer W. Furman*

I have had several questions about jogging safety and would like share a few safety tips.

### 1. **Headphones and IPODS-**

These can be a joggers biggest danger. The headphones eliminate your peripheral hearing. There are many things you should be listening for while jogging, such as approaching cars or people. You may find yourself in a position to hear crimes taking place such as glass breaking or people screaming for help. Most of these small sounds are drowned out by the music in the headphones. If you are determined to wear them, try only wearing one so you can still hear some of what is going on around you.

**2. Carry a cellphone-** Most joggers like to run with as little as possible on them. It is always advisable to carry a phone. You may need to call for help because you sustained an injury from jogging or you spot a neighbor's house on fire. I have responded to both of these calls in my career.

**3. Dress in bright clothing -** This one should be obvious but is commonly overlooked. Joggers are difficult to see, especially in low light such as twilight or dusk.

**4. Use the sidewalk –** State law 40-6-96 states that a pedestrian will always use a sidewalk where one is provided. If you are running in the roadway and there is a sidewalk, then you are violating the law.

### 5. **Acknowledge everyone**

**around you –** Criminals look for easy targets. An easy target is someone who is not paying attention to their surroundings. To avoid this, jog with your eyes up. Make eye contact with people, especially people you feel are suspicious. Criminals don't like to be identified and will most likely flee the scene instead of chancing getting caught. If you are jogging with your head up and are aware of your surroundings, then you are not an easy target.

**6. Communicate –** Let your family and friends know where you are. Tell them what routes you normally take and what times you plan on being out.

**7. Defense weapons?** I've had many people ask if they should carry some type of pepper spray, taser or handgun. The only way I would recommend carrying any of these is if you also receive the proper training with them. Even pepper spray has training that should go with it. If you put the effort into receiving the training and practicing, then they are great additional safety measures.

My goal is not to make everyone paranoid and ruin the fun of jogging. I'm simply trying to give you standard safety tips to work into your routine. Just as you would lock your doors at night before going to bed, or put on your seatbelt when you get in a car, you should take these safety steps when you go jogging or walking. Anyone with additional questions or concerns are more than welcome to contact me.



## Detectives' corner

*Detective C. Curtis*



Detective C. Curtis has over 6 years in law enforcement and was previously employed with Douglasville P.D.

### Entering Autos

One of the most frequent crimes the citizens of Dunwoody are faced with on a daily basis is entering autos. Since the Dunwoody Police Department was formed on April 1, 2009 we have responded to over 150 entering auto calls in our city. The Dunwoody Police Department has noticed the rise in this criminal activity and has answered back with "Bike Patrols" of the Perimeter Mall's Parking lot and surrounding businesses and over saturation of patrol officers in our parking decks during the lunch hours.

Certain steps can be taken by the public to reduce the chance of them becoming victims:

**1. Don't leave anything of value in plain view.** Entering autos is a crime of opportunity. If we remove the opportunity of the crime to take place these crimes will drastically decrease. Take valuable items indoors if possible. (iPods, satellite radios, GPS units, cell phones, purses, loose change) Remove your GPS Unit and windshield mount before arriving at your destination. Many times the criminals are in the area before you arrive and take notice to victims removing their valuables and placing them out of view. This includes the power cords for these electronics as well.

**2. Always secure your vehicle even when at home.** Make it a practice to lock your vehicle and roll up the windows whenever it's unattended. These criminals rely on the victim to leave their vehicle unlocked and enter the business "only for a second". When in reality that's all the time they need to get away with your valuables.

Place empty purses in the trunk and never cover them up with jackets or other items. Some women swap purses based on their attire and leave the empty purse in their vehicle as a convenience. To the criminal walking by, it is an opportunity. Take the extra few seconds to place those items in the trunk before arriving at your destination.

**3. Park in well lit and high traffic areas when possible.** These criminals don't want to be seen breaking into vehicles. By parking in well lit areas you would be reducing your chance of becoming a victim. Also park in areas where your vehicle could be seen by passersby. Because many alarms on the market today are only activated when the doors of the vehicle are opened you might consider the purchase of a vehicle alarm with a "glass break" sensor, which works similar to the sensors on many popular home alarms.

In 90% of the Entering Autos that are reported, the victim left their GPS units, laptop bag, purse or other electronic device in view of anyone walking through the parking lot. Remember to remove empty purses and laptop bags from the common area of the vehicle. It might only cost a few dollars to replace an empty laptop bag and purse but cost you hundreds to replace a vehicle's window. Record serial numbers and take photographs of your valuables in the event that they are taken. Many items are easily resold to pawn shops or sold at Flea Markets for a fraction of the retail cost. Providing serial numbers to Law Enforcement makes it easier to identify your item when it turns up at a pawn shop or found in a vehicle during a traffic stop. ☺

## Explorer Post #702 is born

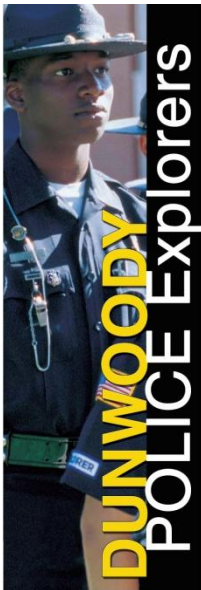
*Officer W. Furman*

The Dunwoody Police Explorer Post #702 had it's first meeting on July 2, 2009. The program is in full swing thanks to donations from the Rotary Club of Dunwoody and Walmart. With these donations the Explorers were able to purchase their uniforms and equipment, as well as pay the registration costs for Learning for Life and the Law Enforcement Explorer Association of Georgia.

Exploring is a Law Enforcement worksite-based program for young men and women who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years of age, or are 15 years of age but have not yet reached their 21st birthday.

Law Enforcement Explorer posts help youth to gain insight into a variety of programs that offer hands-on career activities. For young men and women who are interested in careers in the field of law enforcement, Exploring offers experiential learning with lots of fun-filled, hands-on activities that promote the growth and development of adolescent youth.

The Explorers have been working hard training for upcoming competitions this year. Stay tuned to this article for updates on what community events they will be attending and how they perform in competitions.



### ATTENTION:

Young adults, ages 14-21.

Are you Interested in Law Enforcement?

Are you looking for scholarships?

Do you want to help your community?

If you answered yes to one of these questions...

Contact  
Officer William Furman  
678-382-6913  
william.furman@dunwoodyga.gov



## Speed Trailer

*Officer W. Furman*

The police speed trailer has been deployed at almost 10 locations so far. It is doing an excellent job of collecting data on speeders and traffic patterns. This data is updated constantly on the police website at:

<http://www.dunwoodyga.gov/Government/departments/Dunwoody-Police-Department/Speed-Trailer-Results.aspx>

If you know of an area with speeding issues please email me the location so I can add it to our list. We utilize this data to determine when and where officers are needed for traffic enforcement.

